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PROGRAM CBS Evening News

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SUBJECT Fear of Soviet Move on Poland

WALTER CRONKITE: During the strikes in Poland last August the United States and its Western allies feared that the Soviet military might move in to end the rebellion. While those fears did not materialize then, they have been rekindled, as Ike Pappas reports from the Pentagon.

IKE PAPPAS: CBS News has learned that a recently completed top secret National Security Council study says the Kremlin is quickly losing confidence in the Polish Communist Party's ability to control the deteriorating political and economic situation within the country. The study concludes: "If necessary, the Soviets will intervene, militarily."

American intelligence experts stress in the study that no Russian invasion of Poland appears imminent. However, they believe that although the present situation appears calm, labor unions and others could soon begin pushing for additional reforms and a more stable economy, forcing the Soviets to act as they did in Afghanistan, replacing the ineffective communist leadership in one swift military move.

The study adds that except for stepped up military satellite communications between Moscow and Warsaw there are no possible signs that the Soviets are gearing up for such a move. But the study also carefully points out that the Soviets could launch such an invasion of Poland with only three days' preparation.

The report estimates more than 300,000 troops would be needed for such a takeover. The Russians would need that many troops, says the report, because a substantial portion of the Polish Army, the Kremlin fears, may turn on Soviet forces

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and resist any invasion.

In addition, an armed Polish underground movement is being formed, says the intelligence assessment, which has already drawn up plans to disrupt roads, bridges and communications should the Soviets strike.

Ike Pappas, CBS News, the Pentagon.

CRONKITE: In Poland's southern province of Czestochowa today, workers won the very sort of victory the Soviets fear the most. By threatening to strike, the new independent labor movement, Solidarity, forced the dismissal of the provincial governor and his two top aides. Solidarity charged that they were anti-labor.

Now the government has promised a review of other province officials.